

OPE Revising Ideas and Examples Version 2

1. Is the question at the top of the paper?
2. Is there a title and does it reflect the main idea of the paper?
3. Does the thesis statement specifically answer the question that expresses an **arguable** (open to disagreement; not obviously correct) idea OR does it give a vague answer that is not arguable?
4. Does the thesis include the title and author?
5. Does the paper **analyze** or **summarize**? Eliminate unnecessary summary! (While you're at it, eliminate unnecessary wordiness.)
6. Quotations: What evidence does each quotation (textual evidence) provide?
 - Are they too long or too short? Do they actually support your thesis?

Quotation:

What does it prove?

Does the author identify the speaker, listener, and context of the quotation?

Do you explain the significance of this quotation immediately before or after the quotation in the essay?

YES or NO (fix it if "no")

6. Verb tenses: Have you used the present tense of verbs to describe both the author's work and the action in the work (for example, Chopin shows (not 'has shown') or Mrs. Mallard dies (not 'died'))? Look up 'literary present' if you are confused.
7. Conclusion: Does it end with the "So What" factor – explaining why your essay is important for understanding the text?
8. **Each OPE must contain at least one Sentence Pattern sentence.**

Essay #1

Question: Why does Dr. Jekyll involuntarily turn into Mr. Hyde?

Title: True Colours

Robert Louis Stevenson illustrates his notion regarding the nature of humanity in his novella, *Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, and highlights through Jekyll's involuntary transformations, the innate disposition of humans to gravitate towards immoral deeds, and the ineptitude of the conscience in containing this force. Although primarily he is able to control when he transforms, as time passes he begins to transform sporadically. Yet while he is Jekyll he still seems to believe that that is his true form, and expresses that the "most shocking thing" was that "that what was dead, and had no shape, should usurp the offices of life." (page 39.) This is evidently illogical, as the shock of Jekyll himself shows, since the unreal form cannot replace the fundamental essence of a person. For this reason, the dominating nature of Mr. Hyde appears to be the more fitting character to the true constitution of Dr. Jekyll. The description of Jekyll seems to be little more than a temporary guise that is draped over his true form, as is seen where it states that it was "only under the immediate stimulation of the drug, that I was able to wear the countenance of Jekyll." (page 39.) It shows that Jekyll has to go to unnatural lengths and exert himself to maintain the appearance of being Dr. Jekyll, which is not something one would do for one's "natural" state. Thus, it can be seen that rather than attempting to illustrate a transformation into a separate entity, Stevenson was showing the regression of Jekyll into his true psyche – Hyde – the evil that is present in all people.

Essay #2

Question: Why does Dr. Jekyll desire to become Mr. Hyde?

Title: Freedom

In the novella, *Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, by Robert Louis Stevenson, Dr. Jekyll experiments on himself using a chemical formula, which turns him into a monstrous dwarf. This dwarf goes by the name of Mr. Hyde, and he is portrayed as an evil man with evil intentions. Strangely enough, Dr. Jekyll has a positive outlook on this different body, although it is portrayed as "deformed" in the views of the other characters. Jekyll finds himself attracted towards this evil side of himself, as he is given youth and freedom in this new body of Mr. Hyde. "There was something strange in my sensation, something indescribably new and, from its very novelty, incredibly sweet." (pg. 25) Physically, Dr. Jekyll felt younger again in Hyde's body. This is his first experience being Mr. Hyde, and it's interesting how he feels oddly comfortable in this body. Since Jekyll is a renowned doctor, he always has to be proper and wise in public, to keep his reputation. In the body of Hyde, however, he feels the freedom of being a different person – spontaneous and gutsy. He describes that his experiences as Hyde were consisted of "leaping impulses and secret pleasures" (pg. 27) Therefore, Dr. Jekyll considers Mr. Hyde as a part of himself, because "man is not truly one, but truly two." In conclusion, the temptation of turning into Hyde grows as Jekyll grows accustomed to the freedom and secrecy of Hyde's persona.